

HB 1092 -- CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 10 to 1.

This bill changes, from within 30 days to within 30 business days, the time period in which the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services must complete a child abuse or neglect investigation unless good cause for the failure is documented in the information system.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill simply specifies that instead of 30 days, the division has 30 business days to complete their investigations. Several caseworkers have asked for this change to allow for the additional time needed to complete their investigations. This bill does not impact emergency removals; this is only for actions that occur after the child has been removed from the home.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant; Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; and Woody Cozad.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.